The MSC Monitor

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MAT-SU COLLEGE

Volume 4 Issue 2 P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, Alaska 99645 February 10, 1997

Teacher's Strike Looms

by Amy Menerey

The University of Alaska and the Alaska Community College Federation of Teachers (ACCFT) have reached an impasse in contract negotiations which they have been struggling with for three years. The University has declared a deadlock and requested a federal mediator in an attempt to resolve the differences. The University representative and ACCFT representatives will be meeting on February 26 and 27. At that time they will either have a contract or a declaration of impasse. If the declaration is made, the ACCFT is authorized to take a strike vote.

The ACCFT is a teacher's union consisting of full-time faculty members. These members feel that the University is offering unreasonable proposals and is trying to force them to concede on important issues regarding pay increases, health benefits, workload and tenure. However, University of Alaska's Human Resources executive director, Patty Kastelic, told *The Northern Light* that "the hope is to reach an agreement that is affordable to the university and the ACCFT members willingly agree on". According to *The Northern Light* report, the university feels that a strike is not likely, yet if one should occur they will ensure that students can finish the semester.

Although Mat-Su College has a large proportion of adjunct faculty to full-time faculty, a strike will have a definite impact on the students. The full-time instructors teach core classes which are the basis for most of the two-year degrees offered at Mat-Su. For instance, four of the seven accounting classes now being offered, and eleven of the twenty-three current English classes, are being taught by full-time faculty.

If mediation fails and a strike occurs it must be a "limited" strike, according to Alaska State law. This means that if harm is shown to the students or the community, the strike would be enjoined, or prohibited by judicial order. At that point an arbitrator would be selected to settle all unresolved issues and will have the authority to bind both parties to the terms.

UAA names new Provost

Chancellor Lee gorsuch announced the selection of Dr. Daniel Johnson as the new UAA Provost at Friday's Winter Convocation.

"Dr. Johnson is an ideal chief academic officer for UAA. He is a recognized leader and scholar on the subject of the metropolitan university. His research on the unique roles metropolitan universities play in the constellation of higher education is widely recognized and frequently cited," Gorsuch said.

Continued on page 2, ***Provost***

Former director runs for MTA Board

Glenn Massay, retired director of Mat-Su College, is a candidate for Matanuska Telephone Association's Board of Directors.

At the time of his retirement from Mat-Su Glenn received the University of Alaska's Outstanding Administrator award and Director Emeritus. Glenn is a veteran of the U.S. Army Signal corps, and has a Ph.D. in History. His current project is an oral history of Alaska's governors. In 1974, Glenn was recruited to be the founding president of Tanana Valley Community College in Fairbanks. As the head of several colleges, he is well acquainted with multi-million dollar budgets and fiscal responsibility.

Glenn has served on various boards, including the UMW Medical Clinic in Fairmont, West Virginia, the Mat-Su Community Mental Health Center (Lifequest), and currently the Valley Performing Arts. He and his wife, Donna, were co-chairs for the 1996 United Way campaign. Glenn also sings in his church's choir.

"I spent many years working to offer education services to the Valley and have encouraged residents -- young and old -- to take advantage of the opportunities for growth. As a MTA board member I would use my experience to help MTA continue providing the best communication possible. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 will place new challenges on our co-op, and we must be prepared to meet them in a manner which insures continued quality service for our communities."

on the inside: love letters, veteran's affairs, net news, art and entertainment, msc alumni, poetry, notices, jokes >>>>

From the Editor

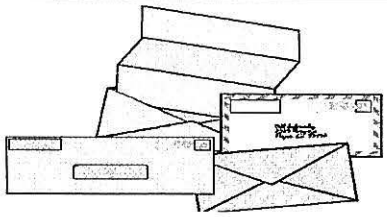
What's love got to do with it?

It's February and next week comes the single most dreaded holiday for all single people: Valentine's Day. We are about to embark on a sticky-sweet holiday with the sole purpose of telling our "special someone" how much we care about them and how we want them to "be mine" forever. Forever! In a world where divorce is nearly as common as marriage, where people fall in and out of love at a moments glance, we still spend hundreds of dollars each year giving candy, flowers, and stuffed animals to each other. Why?

Because Christmas is over. Yup. The Powers That Be in our wonderful capitalist country know that there has to be something to pick up sales during the big after-Christmas slump. And what better to sell than Love? After all, it worked at Christmas - everyone was so full of love and happiness and giving - why not hang onto that idea, embrace it, wrap it in a big red heart with cellophane. And sell it for ten to fifty bucks. Why not?

Because. Because a bunch of unknown chocolate mysteries in a big red heart is not love. It's a stomach-ache waiting to happen. Because stuffed animals get lumpy and their heads fall over. Because flowers die dropping petals on the table while slime grows in the vase. Because Valentine's Day sucks. Because love sucks. Being single on Valentine's Day sucks even more.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to you with regards to the upcoming Matanuska Telephone Association elections. It has come to my attention that Glenn Massay is running for MTA's Board of Directors. As you may know, Glenn was director of Mat-Su College for many years, and his record of excellence precedes him. Mat-Su College is the most efficient campus in the entire university system. Glenn's leadership helped Mat-Su College reach the status it has today.

I strongly urge everyone to support his candidacy for the MTA Board of Directors. We need more people like Glenn Massay to represent our interests. Remember to mail in your ballots.

Sincerely,
Grace K. Wilson-Laudun
President, MSC Student Government

The MSC Monitor welcomes letters to the editor, opinions, guest columnists, poems, notices, etc.! Speak up! Be heard!

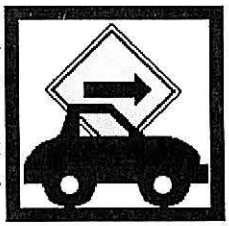
Provost, continued from front page

Dr. Johnson presently serves as the Dean of the School of Community Service, a highly innovative and successful school at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton. UNT has more than 20,000 students and serves the metropolitan area of Dallas/Fort Worth. The School of Community Service combines several professional schools into one. Under Dr. Johnson's leadership, it has grown to become the UNT school with the most extensive community ties and the one which generates the most dollars per faculty member in external funds.

Gorsuch added that Dr. Johnson has developed innovative curricula which reflect a broad mission similar to UAA's and has successfully worked with faculty to design courses to be delivered at times and places which best serve students. He has created a host of partnership agreements with industry and public schools.

"Over the past six years at UNT as Dean, Dr. Johnson has achieved many of the same goals we at UAA would like to achieve for the entire institution," Gorsuch said. Dr. Johnson will assume his new position on July 1.

Reminder: Security will ticket you for parking in handicap or no parking areas. Also, the compact lot is for Compact Cars only!



Now Accepting Applications for Editor, MSC Monitor

The MSC Monitor is now accepting applications for the position of Editor for the '97-'98 year. Applicants should have previous newspaper experience, be a journalism major, or have a sincere interest in journalism. Lots of patience and dedication a MUST! Applications are available outside the MSC Monitor Office, please deposit in Blue Box.

MSC MONITOR STAFF

Editor	*Amy Menerey*
Assistants:	*Dessa Dickerson*
	D.J. Friedline
Guest Columnists:	*Dancing Feather X*
	Leza Madsen

The Monitor welcomes guest columnists and letters to the editor. Submissions will be printed according to space available, and must include name and phone number for verification. These can be placed in the Blue Box outside the MSC Monitor office, room 109, or mailed to the MSC Monitor P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, AK 99645. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, grammar, spelling and libel.

MSC Media Board

Student members are still needed!!!

The Media Board needs student members. The purpose of the Media Board is to oversee the operation of the student newspaper's operating budget, and to ensure the goal of providing the students of Mat-Su College with a student forum. For more information contact Dessa Dickerson @ 376-7198, or Barb Mishler @ 745-9734. Watch for meeting dates and times to be posted, interested parties welcome!

Student Government:

The next student government meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19 @ 12:00 p.m. in JKB 108. Contact Michelle McGehee, Student Government Secretary, for more information.

Veteran's Affairs

Veteran advisors Chris Triplett and Doug Green would like to remind all vets that they must sign in monthly at the Student Services desk to ensure continuance of benefits.

Currently there are fifty-five active vets at MSC using various benefits. Chris, Doug and work study's Ron, Kurt and James would like to keep these vets informed of pertinent information. Representatives are available at Student Services from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, however, they sometimes have difficulty reaching vets on a one-to-one basis to pass on information. Starting this month, and continuing on a regular basis, the MSC Monitor will publish a regular column addressing the needs of these vets.

Net News

From:
Kent_Pennie_at_USR-CS1@robogate2.usr.com

This is to inform you of a very important matter currently under review by the FCC. Your local telephone company has filed a proposal with the FCC to impose per minute charges for your internet service. They content that your usage has or will hinder the operation of the telephone network.

It is our belief that internet usage will diminish if users were required to pay additional per minute charges. The FCC has created an e-mail box for your comments. Responses must be received by February 13, 1997. Send your comments to isp@fcc.gov and tell them what you think.

Every phone company is in on this one, and they are trying to sneak it in just under the wire for litigation. More info can be found at the following links: www.fcc.gov or www.fcc.gov/isp.html

Improve Your Computer Vocabulary

Analog: Hors d'oeuvre, usually made from cheese and covered with crushed nuts.
Backup: Opposite of forward.
Batch Processing: Making a lot of cookies at once
Binary: Possessing the ability to have friends of both sexes.
Bit: 12 1/2 cents
Branch: If watered, will grow into a computer club
Buffer: Programmer who works in the nude.
Bug:
1. Programmer's term for a feature.
2. An elusive creature living in a program which makes it incorrect.

Note: The activity of "debugging" or removing bugs from a program ends when people get tired of doing it, not when all the bugs are removed.

Character Density: the number of very weird people in the office.
Computer: A device designed to speed and automate errors.

Computer Club: Used to strike computer forcefully upon receiving error messages.
Coding: An addictive drug.
Command: A suggestion made to a computer
Compile: A heap of decomposing vegetable matter.
Compiler: Noah Webster (1758 - 1843).
Control Character: Agent 99.
Console: What one does to a down computer.
Crash: Normal termination.
Cursor: An expert in four - letter words.
Decompiler: The software needed to undo the wrongs of compilation, i.e.: to repack object worms in a can of source.
Dump: System Programmer's work area.
Feature: A hardware limitation as described by a marketing rep.
Hardware:
1. Typically boots, leather, and chains. Contrast with Software.
2. The parts of the computer which can be kicked.
Hexadecimal: Unlucky numbers used by computer.
Instruction: Another suggestion made to a computer.
Keyboard: An instrument used for entering errors into a system.
Language: A system of organizing and defining error messages.
Loop: See Loop.
Machine - Independent Program: A program which will not run on any machine.
Microcomputer: One millionth of a computer.
Null String: The result of a four - hour database search.
On - Line: The idea that a human being should always be accessible to a computer.
Password: The nonsense word taped to your terminal.
Performance: A statement of the speed at which computer system works. Or rather, might work under certain circumstances. Or was rumored to be working about a month ago.
Printer: Johann Gutenberg (1400 - 1468)
Quality Control: Assuring that the quality of a product does not get out of hand and add to the cost of its manufacture or design.
RAM: A male sheep.
ROM: A RAM after a delicate operation.
Strategy: A long-range plan whose merit cannot be evaluated until some time after those creating it have left the organization.
Software: Typically silk nighties, nylons, and garter belts. Contrast with Hardware.

Who ya gonna call?

Weapons, robbery at Anchorage campus

Many of us are now making the commute into Anchorage to complete our degrees at UAA. Though not a huge campus, UAA is much larger than MSC and with a larger campus come larger problems. Note the following UAA bulletins, and when at the "big campus", use caution. UAA has a full security staff available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and can be contacted any time by dialing 786-1120 from an outside phone, x1120 from an on campus phone, or by using one of the exterior emergency call boxes. You can also call 786-1120 or 786-1147 to assist with vehicle jump starts, personal escorts, vehicle unlocks, or emergency medical assistance.

UAA University Bulletin
Campus Center/PE facility Weapons Incident

At approximately 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 4, 1997, a staff member in the PE Facility alerted University Police that a strange man was shaving his head in the bathroom and asked them to "check him out."

University Police intercepted the man in the Campus Center with an open gym bag and noticed a 357 magnum in his pocket.

University Police took him to Cook Inlet Pretrial Facility. They impounded his vehicle, and, during a routine inventory of the truck, they found a number of electrical devices, weapons and types of identification. UPD has called in the U.S. Bureau Department to aid in their investigation.

UAA University Bulletin
Armed Robbery Campus Incident

At approximately 4:30 p.m. Monday, February 3, 1997, a man wandered through the Buildings D and E and stole a jacket and a wallet from an unoccupied room.

On being apprehended by a staff person, he pulled a syringe and needle from a belly pack and announced "If this hits you, you're dead."

A faculty member struck the perpetrator in the back with a fire extinguisher and a fight ensued. When University Police arrived, the fight had been moved to the exterior of the buildings.

The perpetrator was secured by University Police, taken to the hospital and released to University Police, charged with armed robbery and assault and incarcerated in Cook Inlet Pretrial Facility.

Please do not leave your property unattended at any time.

Moose spotted at MSC

Some of the students have reported seeing moose on the Mat-Su Campus outside the cafeteria. On one occasion a calf was spotted; although mama was not in sight, we can be certain that she wasn't far away. Remember to be cautious, especially when walking from the main building to Snodgrass Hall.

As an additional reminder, security personnel are available at all times at MSC to help you. You can call them at 745-9789, or by dialing 789 from an on-campus phone. Don't hesitate to ask for an escort if it is dark or if you're walking alone to your car at night. They can also provide jump starts and other emergency services.

MSC Alumni: Where are they now?

Interview by Amy Menerey

For the second in this series I chose to interview someone that I consider a friend, and who also was a great influence to me and my scholastic career.

Randi Froissart was one of the first people I met in the valley after moving here nearly seven years ago. It seems as though she was always goal-oriented and whether or not she was in school at the time I can't recall.

Randi is the single parent of two daughters and has lived in the valley for many years. She graduated from Mat-Su College in 1993 with an Associate of Arts Degree.

Q: What have you been doing since you graduated from Mat-Su?

A: I've continued to go to school at UAA in pursuit of a bachelors degree in Sociology. I received my paralegal certificate in December '96 and will be graduating with my Sociology degree this May.

Q: I know that you're now working in Anchorage, is that part of your practicum work?

A: I started working for a small law firm last summer as part of an internship, and when it was over they hired me, so basically I got this job through school.

Q: How did your MSC experience influence you?

A: Mat-Su is a great starting point. There are very fine teachers there and many of them made a big impact on my life.

Q: What advice would you give to other MSC students?

A: Don't give up! You have to persevere and believe that eventually you'll reach that goal. Sometimes when you're in school for a long time, it seems like you're in limbo, but if you keep believing in yourself and your goals, you do get there. It's been a long road, but I made it!

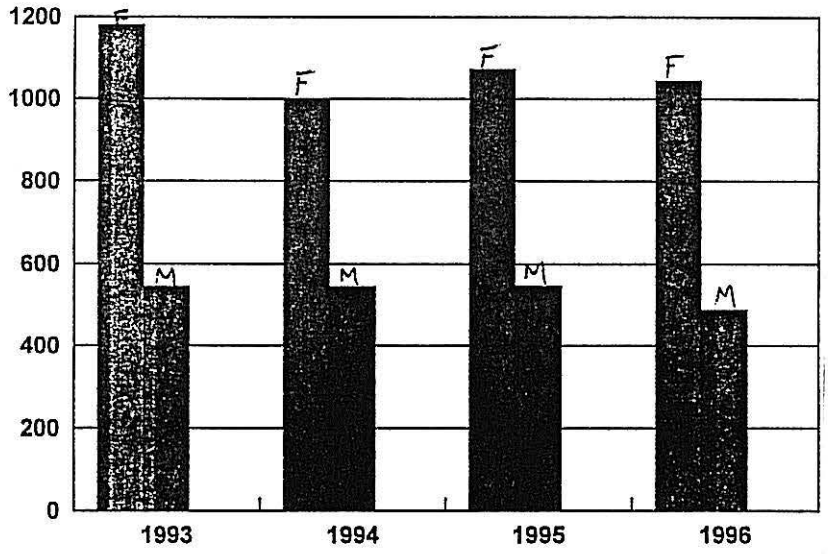
Congratulations Randi! It is your drive and determination that not only helped you achieve your goals, but rubbed off on some of the rest of us.

Who goes there?

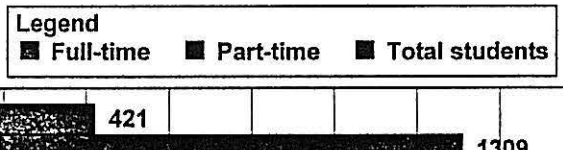
Who are the students of Mat-Su College? And how have they changed in recent years? The following graphs show breakdowns of MSC's student body for the past four years. The figures used were from Spring '93, Spring '94, Spring '95, and Spring '96.

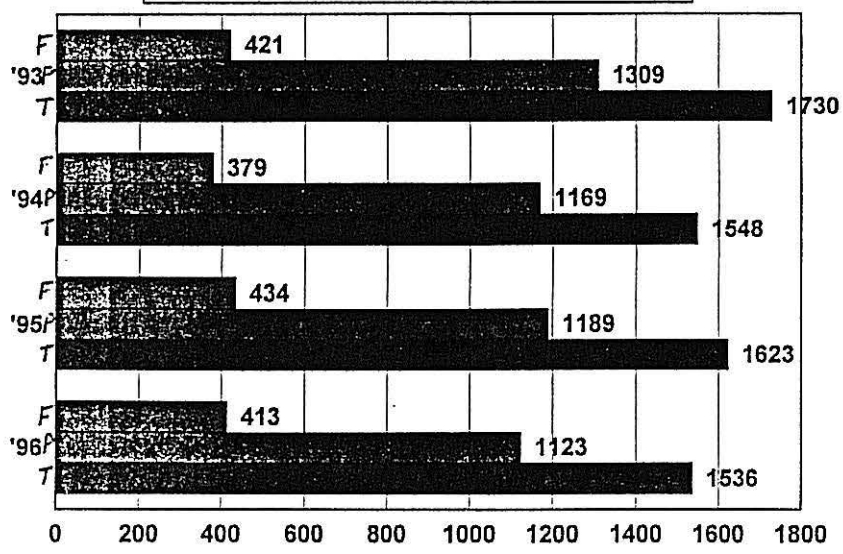
Age Groups used for the pie charts:

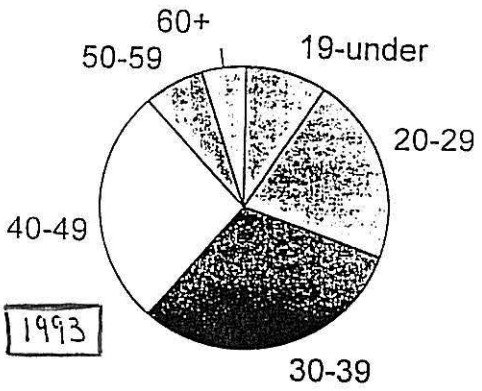
Age	'93	'94	'95	'96
19-under	157	172	264	177
20-29	367	355	426	448
30-39	534	440	410	411
40-49	462	395	362	365
50-59	118	88	99	93
60+	86	69	62	42

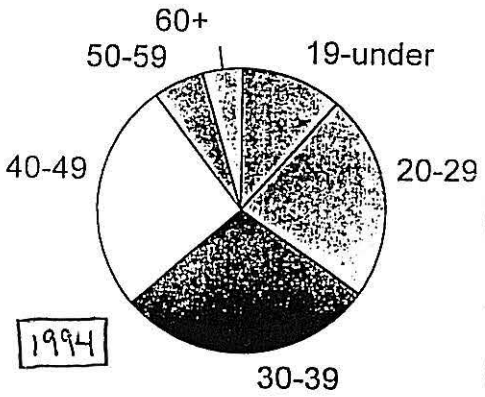


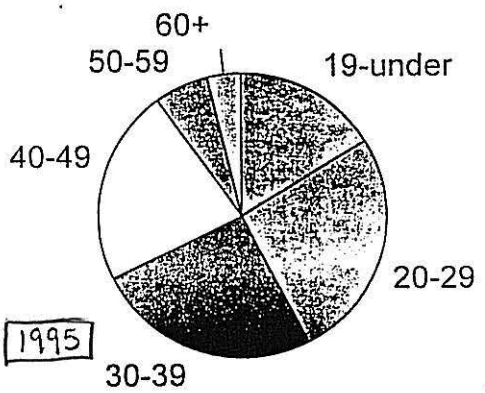
	Female	Male
1993	1183	547
1994	1001	547
1995	1074	549
1996	1046	490

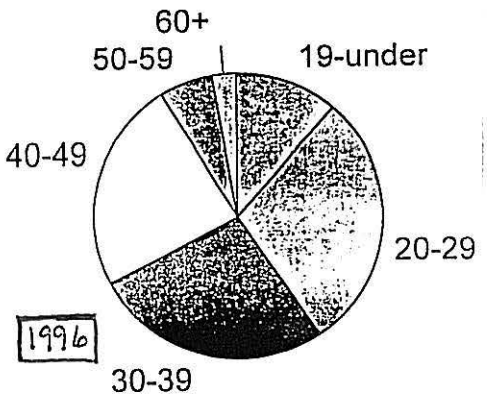












What's Up? Local Arts & Entertainment

Anchorage Concert Association

Feb. 23, *Gil Shaham*, violin
Feb. 28 - Mar. 2 - *St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet*
Mar. 5 - *Moscow Men's Chorus*
Mar. 6 - *Nuevo Caribe!*

Valley Performing Arts

Feb. 21 - March 9
Holiday, by Philip Barry, directed by Grant Olson.
Mar. 28 - April 13
Later Life, by A.R. Gurney, directed by Mark Kelsey.

Anchorage Opera
Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

March 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, by Jacques Offenbach, performed in English.

Prison is hell on earth, and Faust will spend an eternity in hell; but Anchorage Opera concludes the SEASON OF FIRSTS with a zany romp in Hell.

Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* tells the story of Greek gods' tempestuous behavior and their meddling in human affairs. The resultant confusion engulfs mortals and gods alike.

ART Classes

-Tuesday life-drawing sessions continue, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in Machetanz 212. Also, an evening session is being explored. If interested please contact Vickie @ 745-9742. Sponsored by the Art Club.
- For information about the Mat-Su Art Club contact Carolyn Long @ 892-8816.
- One credit workshops coming up:

Matting Your Art - Mon. & Thurs., 9-3, Feb. 10, 13, 17, & 20.
Sewing Handwoven and Specialty Fabric - March 22, 29, April 5, 12.
Spinning Dog Hair and Other Animal Fibers - March ???
Matting Your Art - March 20, 24.
Blacksmithing - April 18, 19, 25, 26, May 2, & 3.
Rustic Twig (Bentwood Furniture) - In May

Art Shows

Mat-Su College

2nd Annual Alaska Juried EGGS-ibition, 1997 Theme: What's Bugging You?

ENTRY DEADLINE MARCH 3!!! Entries must be made from BUGS or relate to BUGS. Juror Richard Benson: Assistant Professor of Art, UAA. Show dates March 17 thru April 4.

UAA Campus Center Gallery

3D Invitational - Feb. 27 thru March 20.
Biology Revisited - March 27 thru April 10.
1997 Juried Student Art Show - March 17 thru May 1.

International Gallery

A Valentine's Day MultiMedia Erotica Extravaganza! Pictures, poetry, prose, EROTICA. It's all happening Friday, February 14 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the 2nd floor of 625 West 5th Avenue. Co-sponsored by Loose Affiliation & The International Gallery.

Anchorage Museum of History and Art

Richard Benson, *Recent works*. Former art teacher at MSC, Assistant Professor of Art, UAA.

February 2 - March 2, 1997
Alaska Artists, A solo exhibition series

UAA Polaris Lecture Series

Paul A. Cantor
Professor of English
University of Virginia

The Invisible Man and the Invisible Hand:
H.G. Well's Critique of Capitalism
Thursday, February 13, 7pm
Arts Building Recital Hall, Room 150

These lecture series are free of charge and open to the public.

Well's egotistic and criminal "invisible man" in his nightmare image of the individual emancipated under capitalism from the surveillance and supervision of the state. The Invisible Man provides an opportunity to economics, he had an anti-capitalistic mentality.

Dr. Cantor received both his A.B. and his Ph. D. from Harvard University, and has taught at the University of Virginia since 1985. His books include *Creature and Creator: Myth-Making and English Romanticism*, 1984, and *Shakespeare: Hamlet*, 1989.

For further information contact: Community and Technical College 786-6400.

Cyrano's Off-Center Playhouse

Eric Bogosian's *Pounding Nails in the Floor with My Forehead.* Starring Bostin Christopher. One actor, eleven characters, one helluva ride!
February 14 - March 1
Thurs., Fri., Sat. at 7:00 p.m.
Tickets:$12, call 274-2599.

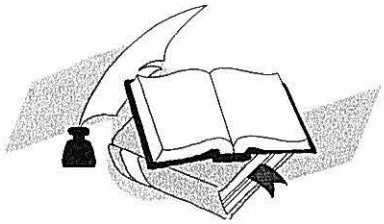
Iditarod Days Amateur Photo Contest

Sponsored by Matanuska Telephone Association and Wasilla One-Hour Photo

Categories: People, scenic, flora & fauna, animals and iditarod. All photographs must be taken in Alaska. Entries limited to five prints in each division. Maximum of 5 color and 5 black and white. All prints must be 8X10 or larger and preferably mounted on a 16X20 " mount board for display. No entry fee. All entries must be received at the Wasilla One-Hour Photo in the Wasilla Airport Mall by 12:00 noon on Friday, February 21.

Want a better grade? Need a little extra help?

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is here to help. What can you find there? Tutors in Math, English and other subjects, Computers with word processing programs, grammar and spell check, and software to help with reviews of English and Math concepts, videos, reference material, a quiet place to study, and monitors for make-up exams; all at no cost to the students! Call Elizabeth Fallon for more information, 745-9733.



LRC Hours:

Monday:
Jeanne 9:00 - 2:00 - Math
Judith 10:30 - 1:00 - English
Rita 1:00 - 4:00 - English
Phillip 2:00 - 4:00 - Math
Lori 4:00 - 6:00 - English
Tuesday:
Rita 9:00 - 2:00 - English
Jeanne 10:30 - 1:30 - Math
Lori 2:00 - 6:00 - English
Matt 1:30 - 3:00 - Math
Wednesday:
Jeanne 9:00 - 1:00 - Math
Judith 10:30 - 1:00 - English
Sally 2:00 - 6:00 - English
Phillip 2:00 - 5:00 - Math
Thursday:
Julie 9:00 - 12:00 - English
Jeanne 10:30 - 1:30 - Math
Matt 1:30 - 4:00 - Math
Sally 3:00 - 6:00 - English
Friday:
Jeanne 10:30 - 3:30 - Math
Julie 12:45 - 4:30 - English
Saturday:
Chuck 10:00 - 2:00 - Math

Accounting Tutoring:

will be available in SGH 103, Wed., 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.; & Sat. in JKB 108, 1:00 - 5:00p.m.

Typing Lab!!!

There are four IBM Correcting Selectrics are available for your use in Snodgrass Hall at no cost to students. Bring you own paper and supplies.

Spring '97 Schedule:

Mon. thru Thurs., 8:45 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fridays, 8:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, call or see Gretchen in Snodgrass Hall, 745-9754.

notices

Library Hours

Because of budget cuts the library hours are changing. Starting January 13 they are as follows:

Monday	*9 - 9*
Tuesday	*9 - 9*
Wednesday	*9 - 9*
Thursday	*9 - 9*
Friday	*9 - 5*
Saturday	*9 - 1*

Latest Developments

The MSC Photo Club meets monthly and has open labs weekly in the photo lab across from the library. The club is open to anyone who has successfully completed Beginning Photography. Dues are $15.00 per semester for students, and $25.00 per semester for non-student guest members. Join us in the darkroom!

February schedule is as follows:
February 13 - lab 11:00 - 3:00
February 21 - lab 3:00 - 7:00
February 28 - meeting @ 3:00
February 28 - lab 4:00 - 7:00

Contact Jim Frei, photography instructor and club advisor, or Amy Menerey, MSC Photo Club president @ 745-9759 or 376-7752 for more information.

MSAA offers scholarship

Through a national essay competition known as PROJECT: Learn MS(tm) '97, college freshman, sophomores, and juniors can compete for an $8,000 scholarship award and raise funds to assist those suffering from multiple sclerosis.

Sponsored by Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, PROJECT: Learn MS(tm) '97 encourages students to write a 500-1000 word essay on multiple sclerosis, its effects on the family, and how society can improve life for the physically challenged.

All essays must include an official registration form, $7.50 in prepaid sponsorship, and must be postmarked by April 11, 1997. Students are encouraged to raise additional sponsor money to win various prizes. For an official registration form, call MSAA at 1-800-LEARN MS.

Attention Spring Grads

If you're planning to graduate Spring '97, you must submit an Application for Graduation. Please make an appointment with an MSC counselor now to apply, call 745-9762. Due Date for MSC graduates is February 14, 1997.

Important Dates

February 14 - Application for Degree Due
March 10-15 SPRING BREAK (YAY!)
March 14-15 - Campus Closed
March 14 - Directed/Independent Study Deadline
March 27-28 - Early Fall '97 Registration
April 15 - Withdrawal Deadline
April 15 - Credit-to-Audit Deadline
April 18 - Summer '97 Registration
April 29 - Total Withdrawal Deadline
May 5 - Last Day of Instruction
May 8 - Grades Due
May 9 - Commencement!!!

Bookstore Hours Spring '97

Jan. 21 - 24
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25
Sat., 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
January 27 - end of semester:
Mon. - Thurs., 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Fri., 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Education Majors

Methods Pre-Screening applications for Summer and Fall '97 must be returned by February 25 for Elementary, and March 4 for Secondary. ALSO, applications for Student Teaching for Fall '97 must be turned in by February 25. Applications are available at Student Services/Counseling office.

Poetry Corner

The Vote

by Carolyn E. Long

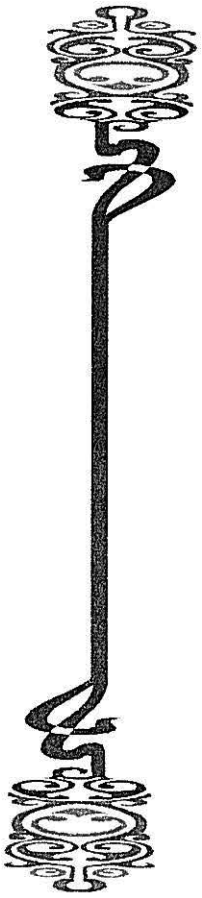
Thirty years later,
a grand jury votes
in the glare of the afternoon sun
filling up the small gray room.

They review the evidence,
a hundred plants,
mega-watt electric bill,
black visquine on the windows.

Tired faces trade glances
around the room.
Young ones amused or bored.

The others, the ones trapped in the middle,
hesitate, fingers seeking the empty place
below there throats
where the beads and braids used to lie.

They wait for that familiar surge of anger
and find themselves looking at the clock again.
Marking there ballots,
they try to remember why it had been
so important to be passionate.



Poet John Haines at MSC

Former Alaska Poet Laureate, John Haines, will be appearing at Mat-Su College on Friday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. in FSM 204.

Haines is a nationally recognized poet who has published several books of poetry and numerous essays. He has been awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the Alaska Governor's Award for the Arts for life contributions to the literary arts. He is the author of several major collections of poetry; a collection of reviews, essays, and interviews; an autobiography; and a memoir. Most recently, *The Owl in the Mask of the Dreamer: Collected Poems*, was published in 1993.

Haines began homesteading in Alaska forty-nine years ago after war duty in the Pacific. He is currently a free-lance writer and teacher and still spends part of each year in Alaska.

His presentation will address the contradictions inherent in the view of Alaska as the last frontier. We have been "exploiters, pillagers and despoilers of just those aspects of Alaskan life we purport to treasure most and hold dearest -- 'hordes of people crowding the rivers and streambanks, wanting their cut of the fish-pie or the moose-loaf'. . . We must wean ourselves from this false sense of adventure. . . and assume our basic human responsibilities to the land and to ourselves."

This poetry reading is presented jointly courtesy of the alaska Humanities Forum and the Mat-Su College Student Government.

Exotic Trade Beads featured in Art Show

by Leza Madsen

The second of Matanuska - Susitna College's 1997 Library Art Show Series opened Tuesday, January 29. The new exhibit features Kodiak artist Mary Jane Longrich. Combining antique beads many with exotic histories, silver, brass, and 14-carat gold, she creates wearable art— necklaces, earrings, brooches.

From an article which recently appeared in the Kodiak Mirror, Steve Avery wrote: "Longrich's choices of color combinations are influenced by painters, Paul Gauguin prominent among them. She also takes inspiration from color, shape, form and texture in the Kodiak environs. Some of her pieces reflect her pleasure in revealing a little humor; others are more sedate."

Collectively called "African" beads, many actually have their origins in the far-flung corners of the world. There are glass beads from Bohemia, Czechoslovakia and Venice, in shades of cobalt blue, blood red, and amber. Many of these ancient beads were traded as far north as Alaska. Combining beads with exotic names such as Peking Greens, Turquoise Melons, excavated carnelians, red feather beads, black Padres, Chinese crumb jade, and Thai triangles are just a few of the beads in this show.

Selecting each bead carefully and combining them with silver, gold or brass wire, each of Longrich's pieces are original works of art. Working from sketches she transfers her ideas to a piece, refining and perfecting until she is satisfied with the results. She uses techniques such as soldering, filing and bending pieces of metal to achieve the desired shapes.

The names of the pieces reflect the inspiration such as her, "Eastern Accents", " Russian Christmas", and " Winter Sunset" necklaces.

Longrich works from her studio next to her seaside home in Kodiak. She taught art in the Kodiak schools for many years and has been a frequent participant in the state's *ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS* Program. She taught ceramics at Kodiak College until the program was cut. As a member of the Kodiak Artist's Cooperative, her work can be seen at The Dancing Salmon Gallery, located about one block from the Baranof Museum and the Alaska Ferry Terminal. Many of the pieces featured in this month show at Mat-Su, are for sale, (inquire at the library).

Unconditional Love: throwing away our expectations

by Dancing Feather X

Love is like a mother who dresses her dearest little daughter in a white dress. This mother knows the white dress is NOT her daughter. She loves the little girl inside the dress— she loves that little soul so much she would giver her life to protect it. What kind of mother would love a white dress more than her precious child? A wise mother understands her child will dirty her dress. A wise mother will scold softly and quickly wash a dirty dress (forgive). She will hug her daughter and wipe the tears and kiss the forehead and then give back a dress more white and clean than before. A wise mother understands that her daughter is completely separate from a dress.

You admit you have blind spots: I want you to pay close attention to me now because I am going to point out some of those blind spots. Unless you read this like I am writing to you, you may miss a point that could be critical to solving some relationship problems that have been plaguing you. Listen and hear, then confess and do, and this Valentine's Day may be a turning point in your life.

How many times do you dress your loved ones with expectations? How many times have you confused them about how you love them? If your child (or for that matter, your spouse), dirtied her dress (spoiled your expectations), would she want to run away and hide? Does she know this special month that you would love her even if she was covered in mud? Is she keeping a whole side of her life hidden from you by covering up a stain you might explode over? If she does not know that your love is unconditional, than this Valentine's Day is a perfect time to explain away any mystification. And, for goodness sake, if you think it is your divinely appointed job to dress (expect/judge) your loved ones at all — why must your high standards be white (perfect)? Why would you dress a human in clothes that will show every spot and stain? If you are finding yourself upset by your loved one's behavior — you are expecting and judging them, and, Oh, how hard for them to see your love when you remember and harp on every stain they have put on your dress of expectations for them! A forgiving heart is a loving heart— and love does not judge, because love is blind. Love is unconditional and if your loved ones perceive your love as conditional, than the problem is yours not theirs.

...how hard for them to see your love when you remember and harp on every stain they have put on your dress of expectations for them...

Why must you have expectations at all? I'm arguing a very serious point here— I believe that understanding what your expectations do to others and yourself can bring about an end to a whole mess of problems. You may fervently desire for you child to do well scholastically, you may wish she would remember her chores and responsibilities without fail, you may want her to be polite, happy and good — but expect it? NO. Love accepts, not expects. Love is patient. Love keeps no record of wrong! Let your child be clothed with your love, not unlivable expectations. Don't let your child wear a shirt with a ketchup stain on the front (an unforgiven, unforgotten mistake). Let spilt ketchup be spilt ketchup and not a wall between communication for fifty years, until you break down! And if your child has a propensity to get messy when she eats—get a bib or napkin (more patience)! Correction and discipline can be loving, and it does not have to be traumatized with whip-lashing, angry words that sear and scar themselves onto your loved one's brain. And, be reasonable: just who are you to dress your father or your sister? Isn't it your job to love them? Let that be your one and only job! With your children you are entrusted to guide, but with your mother you are only to love without judgement.

Have you ever heard that you do what you judge others for? What is something you have been really bothered about in someone else? I am almost positive that you do it yourself, too! Oh, you may not be overt about it— you may do it in a totally different way! Maybe, instead of drinking and beating, your addiction is perfection, and your whip is your words.

Throw away your expectations (forgive and ask forgiveness). Allow yourself only a desire for your loved ones to be their very best. If you can do this, what will you have left? A lot less petty anger, boiling frustration, and bitter disappointment— and someone priceless for you to love unconditionally for the rest of your life!

Friend, decide this Valentine's Day to give your Valentine a gift with tears and smiles and forgiveness. Unconditionalize your love! Use this analogy or another one and tell your daughter, son, spouse, brother, sister, mother, father, friend, or enemy, that you love them unconditionally. Toss your expectations in the washer and remove the stains that were keeping you from seeing a needy, love hungry soul! You will find your impatience problem disappear as you grasp the idea of acceptance and not expectance. In fact, begin to use impatience, frustrations, and anger to point out your own unhealthy expectations. Resolve to get real!

Wanted, Dead or Alive!

At this point I'll take anything! Editor is still looking for writers, reporters, columnists, interviewers, editorialists, **anyone** willing to contribute to the **student newspaper!!!** Come in and make your mark, get your name in print!

The Last Page

Oh Calculus, Oh Calculus,

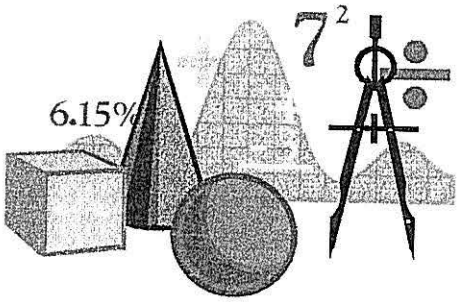
(To: "Oh, Christmas Tree")

Contributed by the MSC Math Department, P.T. Chang

"Calculus Carols." Math Horizons Winter 1993: 5

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
How tough are both your branches.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
To pass, what are my chances?
Derivatives I cannot take,
At integrals my fingers shake.



Oh, Calculus; Oh Calculus ,
How tough are both your branches.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your theorems; I can't master.

Oh, Calculus; oh, Calculus,
My proofs are a disaster.
You pull a trick out of the air,
Or find a reason, God knows where.

Oh, Calculus; Oh Calculus,
Your theorems I can't master.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your problems do distress me.

Oh, Calculus ; Oh, Calculus,
Related rates depress me.
I walk toward lamp posts in my sleep,
And running water makes me weep.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
Your problems do distress me.
Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
My limit I am reaching.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
For mercy I'm beseeching.
My grades do not approach a B.
They're just an epsilon from D.

Oh, Calculus; Oh, Calculus,
My limit I am reaching.

Birthday Wishes to:

Don Irsik
Abe Lincoln
George Washington
Debbie Dickey

Doodle Space